

# FREE POLAND

A SEMI-MONTHLY

*The Truth About Poland and Her People*

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# Żółkiew Is No More

To the north-east of Lemberg there are three castles — the homes of three illustrious families — Zolkiew, Olesko and Zloczow. The lord of Żółkiew at the beginning of the 17th century was Hetman Stanisław Żółkiewski (See "Free Poland" No. 18), of Olesko the Ruthenian vaivode (palatine) Danillovich, while Zloczow belonged to the Sobieskis, also de natione Poloni, de gente Rutheni, as the saying was. The only daughter of Żółkiewski, Sophia, gave her hand in marriage to Jan Danillovich, in consequence of which Żółkiew and Olesko came to have one owner; when, furthermore, the Ruthenian vaivode and the Cracow castellane, Jacob Sobieski, married the only heiress of those two estates, Teofila Danillovich, the three estates subsequently, that is Żółkiew, Olesko and Zloczow, became the exclusive possession of the Sobieskis. The famous Jan Sobieski was a son of Jacob and Teofila. Born really in Olesko, Jan in his boyhood was frequently taken over by his worthy mother to Żółkiew, the resting place of Stanisław Żółkiewski, and there was taught the meaning of the words *O quam dulce et decorum pro patria mori*, inscribed on the famous general's tomb.

And now we hear that Żółkiew is burned. A propos of this old time relic of Poland's glory Anthony Czarnecki is writing in the CHICAGO DAILY NEWS as follows:

In and near this stronghold of Poland, where centuries ago the Polish armies fought to prevent invasions of Europe by Tartars and Turks, were fought some of the fierce and deadly battles of the present world war.. The devastation in the wake of the struggling forces is just as extensive and horrible as if an avalanche of the old Moslem forces had passed through them.

One of the ancient monuments of Poland's glory — the old castle of the family of Jan Sobieski III., king of Poland, who before he sat upon the throne made this city and castle his home and who during his reign often stayed here planning war against the Moslems—is no more. During the conflict between the forces of the Russians and those of the Germans and Austro-Hungarian it was practically reduced to the ground, burying in its wreckage many rare and ancient mementos and paintings which for years had been viewed by thousands of persons who came to visit this place.

When viewing the wreckage of the famous seat of the

great Polish king, who at Vienna with his Polish soldiers saved Christendom, I was told conflicting stories as to how the castle was ruined.

Some assured me that the old castle was hit by fire from machine guns and from heavy cannon in the course of the severe battle which raged around the city.. Others, including Austro-Hungarian army officials, insisted that it was deliberately destroyed, that fire and explosives were set to it and that Tartars in the Russian army forces had been responsible for it.. Those claiming that military operations were responsible for the demolishing of the castle pointed out to me that three of the wings were demolished while the fourth remains intact.. They claim this would not be the case if the effort was deliberately made to put the entire old national Polish relic in ruins.

What the Russians in Żółkiew took special care to burn completely were establishments which might be used by the Austro-Hungarian when they regained this city after months of fighting. When the Russians forced their way into this part of Poland, which since its partition has been under the Austro-Hungarian rule, they found five army magazines and provision warehouses, three modern army barracks, a pavilion for army officers, stables and private official dwellings. During their occupancy here the Russian forces utilized all these, but when the Austro-Hungarian troops drove them out they applied the torch and explosives so thoroughly to these structures that only parts of the walls and chimneys remain standing amid the complete ruins.

....There are a number of fine modern and ancient structures in the city, but with the exception of the damage done by shot and shell to some few I found most of them safe and intact. The principal Roman catholic "fara" church, which contains many trophies from battlefields presented to the church by King John Sobieski III, and is one of the oldest churches in this part of Poland, was hit by a shot. The belfry was demolished and some of the windows were shattered, but otherwise it remained solid and the church services were resumed therein immediately after the battle was over. The city archives were also damaged. The Dominican Fathers' church erected centuries ago by the mother of the famous King Sobieski, which is also her burial place, was struck and slightly damaged, as was also the subtreasury building.

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# FREE POLAND

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## “The Ugliest Race in the World”

There are many American newspaper correspondents in the various belligerent countries of Europe, whose impressions and experiences of the present gigantic struggle may be found in every publication on this side of the Atlantic. That the narratives of our war-news-correspondents do not always agree is also a fact; sometimes, indeed, they are quite inaccurate and false. Why this is so, probably the correspondents alone can answer. It is certain, nevertheless, that many of their statements will never be included in the circle of truthfulness.

Again there are others, whose natural good sense and impartiality appeal to every reasonably minded reader. The views of such men are cherished anywhere and everywhere, for it is easy to observe the wide difference between the reasonableness of the latter and the violence, premeditated rather than passionate, of the former.

Whatever induced Mr. John Reed to say that the Poles are “the ugliest race in the world” (Conf. Metropolitan, March, 1916, page 39) should interest us very much. His assertion is as astounding as it is libellous. Never, in the course of this war did any writer lay claim to the authorship of a more malignant statement against the Poles than the one expressed in such clear terms by our above named correspondent.

Of course Mr. Reed will tell us that this was “his” impression; that he traveled in Galicia; that he only wrote what he saw, or rather, thought he saw at Lemberg. All this is of little value to us, who know more about Poland and her people than Mr. Reed. Our observations are not limited by a single visit to Poland, by a few days’ travel through a very small portion of that kingdom. Many of us lived for years in that persecuted country, coming in contact with thousands of Poles from every walk of life. Moreover, Mr. Reed, if interested, can find very satisfactory accounts and explanations in various books published by well known literary men, dwelling on this subject.

As an instance let us quote the words of the eminent and renowned French writer and extensive traveller: Marius-Ary Leblond. (*La Pologne Vivant*, ed. 1911).

On the very first page this Frenchman writes: “The Poles are one of the most beautiful races on earth, elegant stately in their physical build, heroic in action, generous in the wordly mission they have accepted between Europe and Asia... one of the most cultured and most active races, possessing a literature and civilization superior to that of their neighbors—Prussians, Austrians and Russians.”

On the very next page this same author calls the Poles “des freres” (brothers) and “les Francais de l’Est” (the French of the East).

Now note the difference he gives between the Russian frontier guards and the civil population of Warsaw. (Page 6.)

“As soon as you arrive at the Russian frontier....

the railway station and the trains are occupied by the military.... you must hand over your passports to an officer and impatiently wait an hour among glittering bayonets.... those Mongolian figures.... make you believe that you are in a country invested by Japanese”. The impression of the city folk was entirely different: “The people about you are by no means agitated. You will see them in large numbers on the Marszałkowska and Krakow suburb; the visages are animated with an alert, courteous, remarkable liveliness.... you immediately remark.... that is certainly a loving race.” “Ah, let us be thankful to the Poles for their fecundity! It should be shocking to see the Germans, who have already disfigured two thirds of Switzerland, inhabit all of central Europe. What a consoling thought, that the Slavs are multiplying—large clear eyed families.”....

To quote everything Leblond has to say about the Poles both physically and morally one could fill a good sized volume.

Other ubiassed authors impress us with similar assertions. B. P. Tucic, author of “The Slav Nations”, for example, tells us: “They (Poles) were a brilliant people—mentally and intellectually refined”.... Again the Editor of the “Monitor”: “The Poles are a wonderful people”. He also cites Arthur Symons, a man of letters who writes of them: “The Polish race, to those who are acquainted with it, is the subtlest and most delicate and one of the noblest and most heroic races of Europe.”

Such are the opinions and impressions of men, who studied Polish traits and characteristics, whose travels were not confined to a certain part of Poland, whose sincere and impartial assertions are not drawn from a mere glance at a few “gesticulating Poles on the sidewalk” of Lemberg. The above quoted authors closely and thoroughly examined the racial qualities of the Pole in the city as well as in the country. They applied themselves to the study of Polish art and literature for years. Must we lay aside the well balanced statements of these men and admit the insensate phrase of our correspondent?

If strangers and foreigners are so well impressed by the beauty of the Polish race in all its suffering during the past 150 years; if Napoleon himself was infatuated by the splendor and beauty of Polish women; what should we—sons of Polish mothers—say, when we read those despicable words, hurled into our faces by an American citizen? But thank God that the Poles possess a more rational sense of the aesthetic value of worldly things than Mr. Reed thinks they do. They will look with pity on his unmistakable shortcomings, and all-broad-minded Americans will do the same.

As to ourselves: we may forgive him, but we shall never forget his statement.

J. F. WIECZOREK,  
A. S. NOWAK.

## "Stach z Pucka" and Others

The legend that "STACH Z PUCKA" was beyond the sea, is well known among the Polish Kasubes, inhabitants of Danzig, West Prussia and its vicinity. It is also familiar to the Danes and, according to this tale, "Stach z Pucka" is said to have reached America nearly eighty years before Columbus. If true, he would be the first Pole in America.

\* \* \*

In 1650 there landed in America a Polish family, LABRZYCKI by name, and later settled in New Amsterdam, the present city of New York. The name was soon changed to Labrieske and members of that family still live in the state of New Jersey, many of them having played prominent parts in the history of that state.

\* \* \*

In 1692 there arrived from Danzig the family of LOWINSKI, first, to enter into business relations with the Colonies, later, to settle here permanently. The name, however, was later shortened to Lowe. SETH LOWE, one of the last male members of this family, a wealthy New Yorker, was for several years president of Columbia University in N. Y., and later mayor of that city.

\* \* \*

In 1710 the ZBOROWSKIS came to America from Sweden. They were descendants of Samuel Zborowski, the famous exile from the times of Stefan Batory. Their name was changed to Zboro, the last member of that line having changed it to a more Polonized form — ZABRISKIE. He had not borne it long as he was killed at an automobile race, in Paris, almost thirteen years ago.

\* \* \*

In 1750 there arrived to America the Polish family of DZIADYNSKI of Posen. The last male member of this line is to-day a tribunal judge in Florida and lives in Jacksonville. Having learned that during the Spanish-American war in 1898 there were many Poles in the regiments of Indiana and Illinois, he inquired for them and almost daily would send them baskets of fruit and newspapers. The boys then lay encamped at Jacksonville.

\* \* \*

In 1777, as it is well known, there came CASIMIR PULASKI with 20 fugitives of the Bar Confederation, which, in the declining years of the Polish Republic, was directed against the menacing power of Russia. THADDEUS KOŚCIUSZKO came in 1779, along with ten Poles, among them JULIAN URSYN NIEMCEWICZ, the poet SKORZEWSKI, GENERAL ROGOWSKI, STANISLAUS SKORZEWSKI, ZBIGNIEW DOMEYKO, and others.

\* \* \*

In 1795 and 1796, with the termination of the uprising of Kościuszko, several exiles settled in St. Mary's, Texas, where, despite their centenarian habitation, they have preserved their native tongue. At the same time there arrived to America KAJETAN WENGIERSKI, a poet and satirist of Poland, who was a long resident of New York and Boston. Kościuszko lived in Philadelphia and Germantown. Niemcewicz resided in Passaic, N. J., where there is buried the mother of GEN. HENRYK DĄBROWSKI, leader of the Legions. Mention of the POLISH LEGIONS, who fought in the Napoleonic Wars, recalls their disastrous expedition to San Domingo, where to this day you find their descendants with Polish names. From San Domingo they fared farther and already 90

years ago their names were heard of in Brazil, the United States, Columbia, Guatemala and Chile.

\* \* \*

A number of Polish names we find in Washington, Richmond, Va., Newport, Va., Charlotte, N. C., Savannah, Ga., to which several Polish families emigrated from France. It is a fact that Gen. Rochambeau, sent here by Louis XIV, brought over a goodly number of Polish adventurers. Most of them settled in the South, and it is to be hoped that one of their descendants will in time collect their documents still available and write what will most likely prove an interesting story of their lives.

\* \* \*

With the end of the November uprising in Poland, there came a considerable number of Poles, who, with small exceptions, settled in the East, though the first Pole mentioned in court records as receiving naturalization papers was PETER SENKOWSKI in Reading who became citizen in 1813.

\* \* \*

Later came HENRYK KAŁŁUSOWSKI, who had fought under Gielgud, and now was engaged in collecting funds for the outbreaks of 1848 and 1863 in Poland. He alone succeeded in collecting \$60,000, there being several one thousand contributions, as that of Mr. Gerrit Smith of Philadelphia. CIECHANOWSKI MAJER was collecting in the central states, and Major ALEXANDER BIEŃKOWSKI in the southern and western states as far as California. PRINCE FELIX RADZIWIŁL lived in Louisville, Ky., where he died 20 years ago. He gave medical treatment free of charge to the inhabitants of that city. P. KAŁŁUSOWSKI did creditable work in the American Department of Finances as agent in the purchase of Alaska by the United States and as translator in the famous Kościuszko case.

\* \* \*

In 1837, there landed at Coquimbo, Chili, IGNATIUS DOMEYKO, a nephew to the forenamed Zbigniew Domeyko. As professor of geology and chemistry in the university of Chili for 45 years, he distinguished himself by writing a complete geology of the southern countries. He died in 1885, and the day of his funeral marked a national manifestation in Chili, in which participated the president and other officials, both civil and military together with a hundred-thousand population. He was ever in close connection with Poland.

\* \* \*

JOHN TYSSOWSKI, president of the famous Cracow revolution, came in 1849 to America. He drew maps at first, then became editor of the German Deutsche Schnell-Post, later was employed in the United States Treasury, and finally, two months before his death, became chief in the U. S. Patent Office.

\* \* \*

JAWORSKI was a plenipotentiary of the Polish revolution in the United States, while VINCENT KOCHANOWSKI, a veteran of 1848, formed two regiments at his own expense and engaged in 32 battles. He died in Quincy, Ill., as colonel of the 29th regiment of Illinois. Fully 3800 Poles fought in the ranks of the Northern Army, GEN. ROSENKRANC and GEN. KRZYŻANOWSKI having distinguished themselves besides Kochanowski. Gen. KRZYŻANOWSKI helped prevent the occupation of Wa-

shington. Others that distinguished themselves were PETER KIOLBASA, the later city treasurer of Chicago, MAJOR PETER STANISLAUS, who fell at Chancellorsville, MAJOR ZUBOWSKI, who became conspicuous at Gettysburg and Richmond. Zubowski died three years ago, was officer in the American Navy and inventor of submarine torpedoes, which even to-day constitute a formidable means of marine warfare.

\* \* \*

TITUS ERNESTI, professor of music in the Academy of Syracuse, was one more veteran of the year of 1848.

\* \* \*

HENRYK DMOCHOWSKI is creator of the busts of Kościuszko and Pulaski in the national capitol and likewise of two U. S. vice-presidents, Stephens and Dallas, and of the famous physician Dr. Hobart Hare of Philadelphia University. His masterpiece, however, was the monument marking the eternal rest of his wife, Sanders from home, which even to-day is an ornament of the cemetery at Broad and Berks Streets, Philadelphia.

\* \* \*

ANTONIEWICZ, officer of the staff of Gen. Krzy-

zanowski, fell at Gettysburg. Officer Ladislaus Leski of the 59th regiment fell at Chambersburg, Pa.

\* \* \*

LEOPOLD JULIAN BOECK, an eminent educator, laid plans for the first polytechnic institution in United States. He was a member of the faculties of U. of Virginia and U. of P., and was honored by Pres. Grant with appointment to an educational commission.

\* \* \*

EDMUND LOUIS GRAY ZALINSKI served during the Civil War and invented a pneumatic torpedo gun. He retired from the army in 1892.

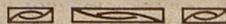
\* \* \*

DR. HENRY KALUSOWSKI served with honor in the Civil War and filled several departmental positions.

\* \* \*

DR. MARY ELIZABETH ZAKRZEWSKA was a celebrated woman physician.

From Notes by Dr. I. V. STANISLAUS,  
Philadelphia, Pa.



## Poles and Jews in Common Distress

The Poles have carried the Jews on their backs for centuries. They very often bled in common cause. Berek Joselevich, for instance, will never be forgotten by the Poles. He formed a regiment consisting entirely of Jews, which distinguished itself at the siege of Warsaw, nearly all its members perishing in the defense of Praga, the fortified suburb of the capital.

To-day they are in common distress, suffering alike the circumstances of war. In this connection Anthony Czarnecki writes in the CHICAGO DAILY NEWS:

In that territory of Poland which is under German and Austro-Hungarian army occupation there is a Jewish population of about 1,750,000, while in the Polish territory in Austria-Hungary known as Galicia there are about 875,000 Jews. The Jewish population in Poland is, about 12 per cent of the entire Jewish population of the world, according to statistics furnished me.

In the city of Warsaw alone, which has a population of about 765,000, there are about 282,000 Jewish persons; in the province of Warsaw there is a population of 1,674,631, of which 191,604 is Jewish. In the province of Kalisch, out of 1,206,141 there are 107,876 Jews; in the province of Radom, out of 1,069,744, there are 153,783 Jews. In Lemberg, where the population is about 905,000, there are about 137,000 Jews. Cracow, which has a population of about 683,000, has about 68,000 Jews.

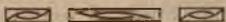
The Yiddish language, which contains many German

words, has proved an advantage to the Jewish people in the territory under German army occupation in dealing with the various German military agencies. Ability to understand and speak German has placed some of the Jews in positions as interpreters and aids of officials...

But the lot of the whole mass of the Jewish people is the same as that of the other inhabitants. In sections where the people are dying of starvation they are sharing the common woes of those among whom they have lived for generations. Their goods are subject to requisition under the same rules as the others, they are subject to the same penalties, and the verdicts show that they suffer with the rest in every way.

Grateful for whatever is done for them and wishing their brethren in the United States the greatest success and happiness, starving Jewish men and women had tears in their eyes as they asked me to remind the outside world that they are doomed unless aid comes; that they are not beggars, but merely helpless at this time.

Daily in the synagogues and in their homes the old and young pray to Jehovah on high for peace, and that He will save His people from the dreadful doom as He saved them in biblical days. Religious zeal is manifest among these people in a manner which indicates that they place their trust in God and that it is their religion and the continuous taste of the bitterness of persecution that strengthens them now in this hour of trial.



## Protestant Poles—Victims of War

Historical Poland was an asylum for the oppressed — she received the Jews, the Hussites, the Armenians, when all the rest of the world would have none of them.

These Polish Protestants are among the best of patriots, and Mr. Czarnecki has this to say of them in the CHICAGO DAILY NEWS:

Settlements of people of the evangelical faith, who, at various times, sought and found asylum in Poland from persecutions in their own countries and who make up the

entire population of a number of towns and villages to the north and east of the city of Modlin, which the Russians called Novogeorgievsk, are among the sufferers.

Many of these people have names of distinctly German or French forms, but inquiry among them develops that residence for generations amid Polish surroundings, where they have enjoyed freedom to worship and speak as they desired, have blended them completely with the Polish people. Now they are among the staunchest of the Poles.

# Poland—a Nation

POLAND, by W. Alison Phillips, M. A., is an objective review of the Polish situation. The only jarring note is that the author painstakingly tries to prove that historical Poland was never a nation. In the same breath to be consistent, he should have said that Great Britain was never a nation, as it consists of the unassimilable Irish, etc., and that the United States is not a nation, as it consists of groups with pronounced hyphenic characteristics, etc.

No, Poland was a nation. Even Moltke, in his "Poland, an historical Sketch", writes on p. 3:

"Poland was a Republic, made up of about 300,000 petty suzerainties, each of which was immediately connected, with the State, and was subject to the whole body alone, acknowledging no kind of feudal superiority or of feudal dependence. No Polish noble was the vassal of a superior Lord,—the meanest of them appeared at the Diet in the full enjoyment of that power, which belonged to all without distinction. It is here that we find the fundamental difference between the Polish constitution and the feudal states of the West and the despotism of the East"... (page 3.)

The spirit of the Poles was a synthetic one.

"The Poles organized political liberty", wrote Vincent Lutostawski, "not only for themselves, but for all who sought their protection on their soil. Their nobility was not a class, formed by conquest, like the nobility of other countries but a semi-religious open brotherhood, growing to the extent of more than three hundred thousand families, united for the defence of their country against the enemies of Poland, and for the protection of Europe against the enemies of Christ.

"Everybody who had shown proofs of valor and wanted to fight, could easily be received into the Polish nobility, and those who proved themselves unworthy, were expelled, despised and deprived of their privileges."

"Nowhere have the people enjoyed so many rights and liberties as in Poland, no nation of Europe has extended in old time the franchise and the full rights of citizenship to such great numbers of its members as the Poles. Already in the 18th century the numbers of full citizens in Poland was fourteen per cent of the inhabitants, while in Germany half a century later the electors formed two per cent of the population and had much less liberties and rights than the Polish citizens.

"Just before the second partition the Poles had decided by their Constitution of the Third of May 1791 that each Diet would grant the full rights of citizenship to a certain number of inhabitants, until all were equal.

"Poland, like any other country of Europe, had not reached universal suffrage, but while in all other countries the citizen rights depended chiefly on income or taxation, in general on economical conditions, in Poland alone the very poorest citizens became nobles, if they had done individually or collectively something for their nation.

"Thus also the great number of nobles in Poland is not due to aristocratic prejudice, but simply to the endeavor of making all men as equal as possible."

In thus painfully striving to prove that the word nation with reference to former Poland must be written with quotation marks, the author, Prof. Phillips, has a reason which is best known to himself. We cannot help but wonder if the author sees this as one more reason

that Poland should fall unhesitatingly into the arms of bureaucratic Russia, the "real" protector of the Slavs.

In the chapter entitled "The Poles and the War," Prof. Phillip writes as follows:

The occupation of Russian Poland has long been an ambition of Prussian statesmen. So long ago as 1863 Bismarck told Herr Behrend, the vice-president of the Prussian Chamber of Deputies that if Russia were driven out of Poland, Prussia would march in. In three years, he said, everything fundamental would be Germanized. As for the Poles, they could be satisfied with a personal union with Prussia, and the deputies from Posen would no longer go to Berlin but to Warsaw.

This idea of Bismarck is perhaps the inspiration of the present policy of Prussia towards the future of Poland. So far as this has been officially announced, indeed, it is studiously vague. It may be true, as reported, that the Emperor William inspired, according to his own account by a vision of our Lady of Czenstochowa, the Patroness of Poland — held up to the Poles at one moment the prospect of a restored Kingdom of Poland under a prince of the house of Habsburg; and if the Archduke Charles Stephen was actually selected as the future king it was undoubtedly an astute move for of his daughters one, the Archduchess Irene Maria was married in 1909 to Prince Jerome Radziwill, and another the Archduchess Mechtild-Maria, in 1913 to Prince Alexander Olgierd Czartoryski. In view of his close connection with two branches of the ancient Polish royal family then, the coronation of the Archduke at Warsaw as king of Poland might well convince a large number of Poles of the beneficent intentions of the German powers towards them; indeed the recent demand of the Polish National Council in Galicia for the restoration of Poland under a prince of the House of Habsburg shows that this is a solution of the problem that the Galician Poles at least would be prepared to accept. So far, however, the only official statement of the intention of the powers is that delivered by Herr von Bethman-Hollweg in the Reichstag on the 19th of August last, and this carefully avoids any definite comments whatever. The Chancellor, indeed, praises the patriotism of the Poles who have so long defended their old Western civilization and love of independence under the severe sufferings inflicted on them by *das Russentum*, and he holds out to them the hope of a development which will remove old antagonism (*Gegensätze*) between Germans and Poles and will lead the country, liberated from the Russian yoke, to a happy future, so that it will be able to foster and develop the individuality of its national life. "The country occupied by us, he adds, will be justly administered by us with the assistance of its own population." The value of this last undertaking may be gauged by the record of Prussian rule in Posen, that of the former by the attitude of the German Press towards the demand of the Galician National Committee for a restored Poland. From this last it is clear that the Germans having regained Warsaw and the line of the Vistula, have no intention of willingly retiring from them. As to this no doubt is left by the language of the secret memorandum presented last August to the German Chancellor by the six most important economic organizations of Germany.

"In order to reconstitute Eastern Prussia", it said, "it is absolutely necessary to reconstruct the frontier by

including certain strips of territory. East Prussia, Posen and Silesia must no longer remain our outer marches, exposed as they are at present." Beyond this new frontier of the Empire the Germans would be willing to tolerate a Poland restored and held under German tutelage to form, with an independent Lithuania and an Austrian Ukraine State, a barrier against the menace of the Slavs. But as for the power to be conceded to the Poles "to foster and develop the individuality of their national life", even if the whole record of the treatment by Germany of her subject peoples did not give the lie to this promise, it would be stultified by the authoritative utterances of the Germans themselves. The secret memorandum already cited lays down very explicitly the rule which, in the opinion of leading Germans should determine, the treatment of the peoples brought within the limits of the empire. "These territorial increases", it says, "assume that the population of the annexed territories will not be able to obtain a political influence upon the destinies of the German Empire and that all the sources of economic power in these territories, including properties large and small, will pass into German hands." Thus through the poisonous haze of lies and false promises looms, gigantic and menacing, the German spirit of conquest. Already — so a well informed writer in the Sunday Times of the 29th of August tells us the idea of setting up a Polish kingdom has been abandoned, owing to the difficulty of reconciling the views of the German and Austrian governments on the subject. That is comprehensible in view of the determination of Germany to retain Warsaw and the Vistula line, for a Polish kingdom from which the very heart of Poland should be excluded would be indeed "a fond thing vainly invented." Therefore, if the German Powers are to have their way, there will be yet another partition of Poland, which will be divided between the two Powers approximately on the lines of the partition of 1795. As for the spirit in which these new provinces will be governed, there are already indications enough that it will be in the spirit of Germanism. Already the old entente between the Galician Poles and the House of Habsburg has been broken; the retreat of the Russians saw the downfall of the Polish hegemony and the end of Galician autonomy, symbolized by the retirement of the Polish vice-roy, M. de Korytowski, and the appointment in his place of a German military governor, General von Colard. Galicia, it would seem, is given over to a regime of delation and brutal punishments, as in the palmy days of Metternich. As for Russian Poland, it would appear that some effort is being made by the German au-

thorities to conciliate the Poles in the spirit of the Chancellor's declaration. But, with the object lesson of the Prussian rule in German Poland before them, the Poles are not likely to be impressed by such slight concessions as the appointment of a Polish nobleman to the presidency of the Warsaw Municipal Council, or the removal of the official ban on the Polish language. More significant of the true intentions of the Germans is an episode described by Mr. Commissioner Bailey in the *FORT-NIGHTLY REVIEW* for September 1915. In revenge for the refusal of the Poles to be impressed by the Emperor's vision of Our Lady of Czenstochowa, the Germans, when Czenstochowa fell into their hands, not only perpetrated "their usual outrages", but by their treatment of this holy place of Poland gave a very special proof of their attitude towards the Poles as well as their peculiar sense of humor.

"The church was desecrated, and its picture was wrenched from its frame and despatched to Germany. Finally, to the dazed horror of the citizens and all Poles, a vulgar portrait of the Kaiser in uniform was raised above the dismantled altar, lights were placed before it, and the wretched people were daily driven in by the brutal German soldiers to kneel before the picture whom they regard as the Devil incarnate."

This episode is symbolical of the attitude of the Poles and the Germans towards each other.

For the truth is, that the grip of the mailed fist has closed upon the earth of Poland. Will it tighten, until the life-blood of this most unhappy nation has been pressed out to the last drop or will the blows of Russia, herself enlightened and redeemed by her trials, at length force it to relax its grasp, and Poland be restored to free and wholesome life? That is now the Polish Question. On the answer to it depends, as so often before, the fate of Europe. The world has by this time realized the force of Germany's "will to power." If Poland, once more dismembered and crushed, be absorbed into her system, there will be no power left in Europe strong enough to resist this will. For Russia's Allies, then, the liberation of Poland from the German hosts is an object as important as for Russia herself.

The French and English peoples have always sympathized with the cause of Poland. Their sympathy is now more practical, and their determination to persevere till the liberties of the Poles are assured will not be weakened by the consciousness that, if they were to leave them to their doom, the same doom would sooner or later fall upon themselves.

## Russia's Approval

The Russian government has approved of the plan submitted to it for the sending of foodstuffs into Russian Poland. The attitude of the Russian government, therefore, gives a decided blow to the sensational information that has been disseminated that Russia has placed obstacles in the way of American philanthropists who desired to assist the inhabitants of Russian Poland occupied by Germany.

However, this Russian condescension should have occurred earlier in the dead of winter when the need was greatest.

The semi-official agency from Petrograd, which

makes public Russia's approval, offers the following explanation:

"The relief plan will take the following shape: The Rockefeller Foundation will undertake the task of supplying food to the inhabitants of six Polish city centers.

"The Germans, on their part, are to make provision for the remainder of the occupied country, at the same time insuring entire freedom of the American enterprise, guaranteeing that foodstuffs shall not be exported from Poland, and forbidding their troops from using local foodstuffs."

# FREE POLAND

A SEMI-MONTHLY

*The Truth About Poland and Her People*

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## Remember

Poland asks to be reconstituted along the lines of justice and fair play to all.

Poland demands peace with freedom.

Poland, as a buffer State, will be one of the greatest guardians for the future peace of Europe.

In fact, Poland "asks nothing for herself but what she has a right to ask for humanity itself."

## Still Bickering Over Details

If the belligerent governments of Europe could come to terms, the destitute and needy people of Poland, Serbia, Montenegro and Albania would be provisioned.

The plan as published by the Rockefeller Foundation includes a contribution of \$1,000,000 by that body for the proposed relief work and the expenditure of \$3,000,000 a month for foodstuffs to be purchased by Germany and to be shipped to an East Prussian port, transported free by Germany to Poland and distributed under the supervision of an American relief commission.

\* \* \*

Great Britain agreed to relieve the blockade on certain conditions, that the relief be applied to that part of Poland occupied by the Austrians, that the food be shipped from the United States in German ships under a neutral flag, and that

Germany agree to care for the civilian population of Serbia, Montenegro and Albania.

That is the British plan.

\* \* \*

Of course, the Germans have not accepted it, nor have the British agreed to the German proposals, and much time has already been lost in negotiations, whereas it is highly important that whatever is to be done for the Poles be done quickly.

\* \* \*

Thus, the Poles are still the greatest sufferers of this war. Engaged in fratricidal battles, fighting in the camps of both belligerents, they see thousands upon thousands of their villages destroyed, their whole country laid bare by the instruments of war, their women and children starving. The only remedy is relief and adequate provision should be made for its distribution at once.

\* \* \*

Great Britain, Russia and Germany have signified their willingness to help relieve the situation. Poland's condition is the saddest of any of the war ridden countries.

Yet there are proposals and counter-proposals, while the population suffers.

Negotiations are being carried, while thousands die for lack of food. The excellent crop prospects which are given as an excuse for delay are only prospects, and before the harvest several thousands may die of hunger.

The Powers are bickering over details, while a whole people is threatened with annihilation.

The Powers are bickering over details, while the suffering of the people of Poland is four times as large as that of Belgium.

When war was declared Mr. Asquith said England was fighting to uphold the rights of smaller nations. By refusing to relieve the tragic situation in Poland, do the big Powers mean first to annihilate those who are most interested in the working out of this principle of nationality?

It is bread they want. If bread be refused, a whole nation will die, and its death—to the eternal disgrace of the "civilized" Powers of Europe—will constitute the direst tragedy in the annals of mankind.

# Poland's Reasons

## II

### The Intellectual Right.



ONE of the strong grounds on which the Polish base their just claim to freedom is their intellectual capacity. When an individual aspires to an office, he is required to possess such intellectual qualification as will guarantee efficiency in the discharge of the duties which the particular office entails. In like manner, a nation urging the right to self-government is justly expected to manifest such intellectual endowments as will enable it to govern its own affairs both to the advantage of the particular people and to society at large. That the Polish intellectually are not less qualified to self-government than any other self-governing people is a fact that admits of no contradiction and needs only to be explained.

It is enough to recall that prior to their subjection to foreign rule the Poles continued a free and independent people for more than a thousand years, that throughout their history they strongly leaned towards the republican form of government, which even at that time in rigid independence of those of other contemporary people, was a clear prototype of the form of government of the U. States, that, finally, they framed the Constitution of the 3rd of May which leading diplomats and statesmen, such as Frederick of Prussia, the emperor of Austria, Edmund Burke of England and others declared to be an embodiment of the highest political competency — it is enough to recall these, we say, to create an evidence that intellectually the Polish are fully competent of self-government.

But let us particularize—yet not until we pointed out that the territorial position of Poland, particularly at her earlier period, had altogether been adverse to anything like high intellectual attainment. A glance at the map of Europe and an acquaintance with the then peoples inhabiting Eastern and South Eastern Europe will corroborate our statement. Poland's place had been the centre, the dividing line between the West and the East, between the Western civilization and the strange to civilization feverish element of the South Eastern peoples, particularly the Tartars and Turks, who ever held themselves in readiness to sweep over Poland and inundate the West. Poland, then, had been the sentinel of the West against the East; the "bulwark of Christendom" is a well-merited epithet of Poland. She was the dam of Europe against the surging waves of Asiatic barbarism. It was but natural for Poland by reason of her territorial situation to be continually involved in defensive warfare, and when we bear in mind the adverseness which such conditions necessarily create to its detriment of the intellectual prosperity of a people, we have the position of Poland on this score well solved, nay we would readily accept any apology which Poland would offer for her intellectual development.

There is nothing in the world that can be considered absolutely, without relation to those things which bear down a necessary influence upon it. We would not form a low estimate of the Irish during the hundred years following the penal code, when to all appearances "they were" — to quote Thebaud—"nothing but mere slaves, seemingly devoid of all courage and with no ambition to improve their condition." Nor would the strongly nationalist-

ic and elastic character of the Bohemians of to-day justify and explain the national decrepitude into which they had fallen consequent upon the battle of the White Mountain. We rather laud the Irish and wonder why they no less than the Bohemians should have preserved their nationality at all in the face of the repressive measures under which the two people had unfortunately labored.

Poland's geographical situation, then, had been unfavorable in the extreme to the cultivation of letters, and a mere rudimentary literary attainment would accord her ample justice, nay, it would bid fair of the intellectual capacity of her people. But we find Poland display more than this. England, free from the constant invasions of the Eastern peoples, had her Oxford; while France more fortunate in her geographical position, possessed her Paris, Poland held her Cracow. It was Cracow, the University of Cracow which since the middle ages continued to be the main nursery of learning in Eastern Europe. In the 15th century, this university, while it attracted scores of students from all over Europe, did not fail to turn out eminent native scholars. Dlugosz became a recognized historian while John Ostrorog achieved remarkable success in the department of political science. Nor can we pass over such scholars as Gallus, Martinus Polonus, John of Czarnkow and others who lived at an earlier period and throw a strong light on the literary tendencies in the Polish language at that time.

In the divers intellectual movements of the 16th century, the Poles were no less ably represented than any other contemporary people. In the scientific movement, while Germany was led by Kepler, Italy by Galileo, England by Boyle and Newton, Poland could not be headed by a greater scientist-astronomer than Copernicus. It was this astronomer, who inseparably linked the name of Poland with that of astronomy. In the religious movement which in Poland took the form of defense against the influence of Protestantism, Wujek and Kromer rose to eminence. Nor may we pass without according a mention to the eminent theologian and statesman, Hosius who was given preference to preside at the Council of Trent.

When humanism, the literary movement, starting from the East, sojourned in Italy and thence spread throughout the continent and even reached the distant shores of England, everywhere followed by literary awakening, Poland was fully prepared to take in it an active part, such as bears evidence of an enlightened people.

In this humanistic movement, while Italy could claim no more able leadership than that of Cosimo, Lorenzo the Magnificent, Pietro and others, while in Germany, the University of Strassburg became thoroughly imbued with the principles of humanism and Paris produced such scholars as Bude, Nicholas de Chamanges; while Grey, Coxtton and Blessed Thomas More in England rose to international repute, Cracow was a veritable centre of learning and produced a Budny, Krowiecki, Rey, Bielski and Kochanowski, surpassed only by Mickiewicz upon whom Goethe bestowed the epithet of the poet laureate of the world. Poland, at the time when humanism held sway in Europe, exhibited a strong and virulent intellectual power in every department of literary endeavor. It seemed as though the university of Cracow created a surplus learning and was obliged to dispose of it by diffusing it throughout the country. Schools and colleges were found-

ed throughout the country and competent bodies of teachers were not wanting. Well could Sienkiewicz, the kingly autor of "Quo Vadis", in one of his recent articles say that "in the progress of civilization, our names, our ideas and our constructive power were not wanting." Nor are we surprised that Moltke, the famous German Field-marshal in the Franco-Prussian War, who was anti-Polish in convictious, asserts in his books on the Polish Constitution that "Poland of the 15th century was one of the most civilized states of the world."

In 1772 the first partition of Poland took place. The second followed twenty-one years later and in 1795 "the great crime", to quote Brownson, "as well as political blunder" of the complete dismemberment of Poland had unfortunately been perpetrated. The whole world naturally took a deep interest in Poland's downfall, and while profuse comments were made on the causes that led to that unique national drama, yet we will yet have to hear an assertion made that Poland's fall is attributable to the people's intellectual incompetency. Such assertion has never been made, nor will it be made; for to trace the fall of Poland to her people's intellectual incapacity at a time when they framed the Constitution of the 3rd of May, which, we have said, received the admiration and full endorsement of the leading statesmen of that time would be preposterous. Such men as the two Potockis, Czartoryski and others must have been no meaner representatives of their nation in patriotism and statesmanship, than were the framers of the American constitution.

After Poland had been divided, attempts contrary to all guarantees of the Congress of Vienna as to the inviolability of the religion, language and national traditions of the Poles were made by the three dividing countries to stamp out every vestige of her national life, the Polish continued to manifest a wonderfully strong intellectual vitality. Territories can be divided at the will of the stronger, but the people cannot be denationalized without total extinction. The Poles continued a nation, one and indivisible — they acted like one people — they thought like one people and their literary prosperity which marks their post-partition period will prove in a favorable time one of the strongest reasons for precipitating the just restoration of their self-government. Certainly a people who after such calamities as the Polish underwent, which were enough to make them, to paraphrase Theband, "mere slaves, . . . lose all courage and desire of improving their condition", were capable of founding such institutions of learning as the "Society of Friends of Learning", the Volhynian Lyceum, the University of Warsaw, the Acedemy of Science in Cracow and others, and give forth to such poetic genius as Mickiewicz and such literary talents as Zaleski, Krasinski and scores of others, are not doomed to extinction. They possess too much inherent intellectual vitality to allow themselves to become assimilated into a foreign element.

Poland, then, despite her unfavorable geographical position and political circumstances under which she struggled ever since her appearance among the family of nations, left all along traces of high intellectual capacity. She left them long before the University of Cracow rose to prominence. She left them particularly in the 15th and the 16th centuries when the intellectual renaissance held sway throughout Europe. No less forcibly did she demonstrate her intellectual ability after her territorial partition by which she showed that she had not ceased to be a nation.

To-day under the very torrent of anti-Polish measures such as rarely happened in the history of men, Poland's intellectual standard is on a par with that of any people. The University of Cracow needs no comment; the Polish academy of science in Cracow stands pre-eminent in lettered Europe; the John Casimir University of Lemberg forms in conjunction with the University of Cracow the main spring of Polish intellectual activity, while the remaining institutions of learning in what formerly constituted the kingdom of Poland such as the theological Seminaries in Posen, the University of Warsaw and the thickly dispersed colleges in Galicia bid fair to become the educational standard of the Polish.

If we wish to judge the intellectuality of the Polish of to-day by individuals we can do so with enviable honor to them; for Poland at present possesses geniuses in every walk of intellectual endeavor.

With the dramatic genius of Mme. Modjeska still fresh in the world's mind, the Poles are justly proud to be represented in philosophy by Lutoslawski, the most noted Platonian commentator of to-day; in science by the discoverer of radium, Mme. Curie-Sklodowska, in literature, H. Sienkiewicz continues to maintain the lead; while the humane and truly democratic pianist Paderewski sings of the glorious past, the present woes and the near happiness of this people when Poland will once more become the Polish nation free and independent.

The intellectual competency of the Polish whilst it has proved a strong barrier against the denationalization policy of their usurpers, has ever been a loud protest against their being subjected to foreign rule. But at present, the intellectual traditions of this thirty million people, together with their historical rights and recognized political competency, when there is a tendency to free all subjugated people, when Ireland has gotten her Home-Rule and, we hope, will be ere long proclaimed a free and independent country, and when other unfortunate nations clamor for freedom and find a hearing among men, — the intellectual capacity of the Poles, we say, presents at the court of nations an irrefutable argument for a speedy restoration of their freedom and independence.

A. J. ZIELINSKI,  
St. Louis, Mo.

## An Internal Affair of Bureaucratic Russia

W. P. Simms, a United Press Staff correspondent, reports from Petrograd that the United States faces the greatest difficulties in its attempt to negotiate a new commercial treaty with Russia to replace the one abrogated during President Taft's administration because of the Jewish question.

Count Kokotseff, former Russian prime minister and minister of finance, said:

"Americans ought to realize that Russia cannot entertain outside suggestions regarding her internal affairs. Americans must come in like other nationalities, allowing Russia to settle her own interior problems."

The enunciation is characteristic of bureaucratic Russia. Just so the Markoffs and others have expressed themselves with reference to the Polish question.

# Croatia and Slavonia

By JOHN S. FURROW

Croatia and Slavonia form a so-called crownland of Hungary, bounded on the north and east by the kingdom of Hungary proper, on the south by Dalmatia, Bosnia and Serbia, on the west by the Adriatic, Istria, Kraine and Styria, comprising 42,533 square kilometers (about 16,500 sq. mi.) The inhabitants — Croats and Slovenes — are part of the Southern Slavs, now commonly called the Jugoslavs.

"The Jugoslavs", writes the *Southern Slav Bulletin*, "that is the Croats, Slovenes and Serbs, are by blood, language and tradition, no less than by economic and political conditions, one homogeneous nation, with identical aims in their national life.

"They form the compact population of the Kingdoms of Serbia and Montenegro (pop. 5,000,000), of the Jugoslav provinces in Austria-Hungary (Jugoslav population 8,000,000) and of the Italian district west of Gorizia (40,000 Jugoslav), whereas 1,500,000 Jugoslavs live as emigrants in oversea countries.

"In Austria-Hungary the Jugoslavs are subordinated to two dominant State organizations, viz., the German and Magyar. Their territory is broken up into ten provinces; they are politically oppressed, socially persecuted, and in every way hampered and menaced in their intellectual, economic, and national development.

"There are 2,100,000 Jugoslavs under the German administration in Vienna. Of these 410,000 live in Southern Styria, 120,000 in Southern Carinthia, 490,000 in Carniola, 155,000 in Gorizia-Gradisca, 70,000 in Trieste, 225,000 in Istria, and 610,000 in Dalmatia.

"Under the Magyar domination there are 3,100,000 Jugoslavs, viz., 2,300,000 in Croatia-Slavonia, and 900,000 in Southern and South Western Hungary (in the Medjumurje along the Styrian frontier, in the Baranja, Backa and Banat.)

"A joint Austro-Hungarian administration controls the 1,900,000 Jugoslavs living in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"Finally there are 40,000 Jugoslavs under Italian rule.

"The Jugoslavs have always desired to form an independent State, and to lead their own national life free from all foreign domination, whether Turkish, Venetian, or Austro-Hungarian. Both in Serbia and Montenegro they have already achieved and developed their freedom, but all attempts to obtain even partial unification and the conditions for national development within the borders of Austro-Hungary have invariably proved unsuccessful.

"All unredeemed Jugoslavs look to the successful issue of the present war waged by Serbia and Montenegro and their mighty Allies to accomplish their complete deliverance from foreign domination. And they hope that in accordance with the principle of nationality they will be permitted to realize their ideals of union with their free brothers in the two kingdoms, and of the unification of the national territory in one single independent State."

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The territory, occupied by the Jugoslavs, is an interesting landmark in history. Originally inhabited by

the Pannonians, Croatia was in turn conquered by the Romans during the reign of August, becoming part of the province of Illyria. It next was subjugated in 489 by the Ostrogoths, only to be conquered in turn by Emperor Justinian. It was held by the Avars until in 640 it was eventually occupied by the Croats, whence the present name of the country. After incessant struggle Croatia submitted to Franconian domination, and in consequence secured her freedom and became an independent state in 799. It was later divided into Dalmatia and the province situated between the Drava and the Sava, which governed from 883 by Bratslav, an ally of the German king Arnulf, was later brought under the power of the Magyars. It was liberated from Magyar domination during the reign of King Salomon. The rulers of Croatia, vassals of the Byzantine Empire from the ninth century, assumed in 994 the title of kings of Croatia, changed in 1050 into the titles of kings of Dalmatia.

Chosen in 1076 by the nation as king Zvonimir, ban of Croatia (1076-1089), desirous of establishing his authority, renounced his affiliations with Byzantium and submitted to Pope Grzegory VII, from whom he received the confirmation of his royal title. With the death of Zvonimir there followed many internal dissensions, in consequence of which the country was subdued in 1091 by Ladislav I, king of Hungary, up to and beyond the Sava and divided into a number of Comitats. Despite several attempts at liberation, Croatia was again subjugated by King Coloman II in 1097, and the rest of the country submitted to Hungary in 1102. In 1342 Louis I added Dalmatia and Slavonia and Transylvania to the crown of Hungary. Croatia was the bone of contention between Venice and Hungary, and from the latter half of the 15th century it was subjected to frequent invasions by the Turks. In 1527 the Croatian states paid homage to Ferdinand I, of the house of Habsburg, elected in 1526 as king of Hungary. In 1532 the Turks conquered the fortress of Bihach which henceforth represented Turkish Croatia, a Sanjak in Bosnia. From 1767 to 1777 Croatia along with Dalmatia and Slavonia constituted the kingdom of Illyria, governed by a separate deputation in Vienna. Later each of these provinces formed a separate kingdom, whereupon Croatia and Slavonia became dependent on Hungary. Oppressed by the Magyars with regard to their language and nationality, the Croats started a movement for independence and for this purpose combined with their kindred Serbs of Hungary. The Serbo-Croatian movement, which was given expression to in 1848 contemporaneously with the Hungarian revolt, greatly influenced the course of Serbo-Croatian nationalism. By virtue of an imperial enactment Croatia and Slavonia, in 1849, were separated from the kingdom of Hungary and united into one crownland. The union with Hungary was renewed in 1860.

The literary language of both Serbs and Croats is practically the same and is usually known as "Serbo-

Croatian". The word for the pronoun what is *ča, što, or kay*, and it is according to the pronunciation of this word that the three dialects of Croatian are known as the *Čakavski, Štokavski and Kaykavski*.

It is the first of these three dialects that the Dalmatian writers used in the 15th and 16th centuries, the period being known as the golden age of Serbo-Croatian literature. The best national ballads and songs and legends were written in the *Štokavski* dialect, which in turn became the literary language of all Serbo-Croats. Towards the end of the 15th century the Raguzan (Dubrovnička) Republic on the Adriatic became, due to a wave of prosperity, political freedom and enlivened commercial relations with Italy and Greece, the Athens of Southern Slavdom. In the national tongue were written the excellent works of lyrical, epic and dramatic poetry. In the 15th century there flourished such poets as Marko Marulich, Shishko, Minchetich, George Dargich, Luchich, Vetranich, Hektorovich, Chubranovich, Naleshkovich, Dominic Ranyina and Zlatarich (the latter d. in 1610.) The 17th century finds Jan Gundulich (1588-1638), Julius Palmotich (1606-1657), Minchetich, who died in 1666. Among the distinguished poets of the 18th century we find Ignace Gyorgich (1676-1736), and Andrew Kachich Moyskich (1690-1760), a happy imitator of folk songs. The *Kaykavski* dialect had a distinctive literature which, however, possesses more philological interest than literary merit.

Usage of the popular Serbian vernacular by Dositey Obradovich (1739-1811), its defense by Vuk Stefanovich Karajich, who was indefatigable in collecting the numerous national songs, helped to stimulate among the Croats a new interest in their national history, their traditions, folk-songs and folktales.

The Illyrist movement of 1840, which aimed to unite the Yugoslavs, led finally to the adoption of the *Štokavski* dialect, already spoken by the majority of Serbo-Croats. Lyudevit Gay (1809-1872) was instrumental in bringing about this triumph, being himself a talented poet and one of the founders of Croatian journalism. At present in all the country inhabited by the Serbs, namely in Old and New Serbia, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Montenegro, Dalmatia, Croatia, Slavonia, on Serbo-Hungarian territory, an identical language is used, the only difference consisting of the dual alphabet, the Latin and the Cyrillic.

Among the modern poets we mention Milutinovich, Mushitski, Peter Nyegosh, Stanko Vraz, Branko Radicevich, Count Medo Puchich, John Mazhuranich, whose *Šmrt Smail Aga Čengicha* gives a vivid description of Turkish rule, Kazalich, Marulich, Yovanovich, Sundechich, Subotich, Utyeshenovich, Matiya Ban (1818-1903), whose tragedy *Meyrimah* is reputed to be the finest dramatic poem in the Serbo-Croatian language.

\* \* \*

With the outbreak of the present war, the Illyrist movement received a new impetus. The Dalmatian Society has kindly forwarded their appeal to the office of Free Poland, and it reads as follows:

#### THE SOUTHERN SLAVS' APPEAL TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE!

(Based upon the Immortal "Declaration of Independence")

When in the course of human events, it becomes ne-

cessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the Earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitles them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation from the dual monarchy, namely Austria-Hungary, and to form a union with our kin of southern Europe based upon the American democratic principles, consisting of the following branches of the Southern Slavic race, namely, Croatians, Serbians and Slovenes.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator, with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness. And since the government of the Dual Monarchy, Austria-Hungary, is entirely foreign to its downtrodden Slavic subjects in race and traditions, it has furthered its tyrannical ambitions by attempting severely to Germanize them, who are a people with nobler traditions, more ancient than the Teutonic, whose so called "flower of chivalry" in the time of the Crusades, namely the Teutonic "Knights of the Cross", were in reality but a band of robbers and plunderers, masquerading under the sacred symbol of "The Cross", conquering Prussia, Pomerania, etc., in 1309, and successfully Germanizing the Slavic inhabitants by the power of the sword; therefore the bulwark and pride of the present Germanic Empire, the "Prussians", are simply "Germanized Slavs."

The history of the present Emperor Francis Joseph is a monstrous record of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over the Southern Slavs as a whole. To prove this let facts be submitted to a candid world:

He has with the assistance of his Germanic clique dissolved parliament repeatedly for opposing their invasions on the rights of the people; sent swarms of officials to harass our people and eat out their substance; refused his assent to laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good; effected to render the military superior and independent of the civil power; abolished some of our government; politically attempted to complete the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already many times begun with circumstances of cruelty and perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the heads of a civilized nation; constrained our people to bear arms against their brethren, the Serbians especially, or to fall themselves by their hands; incited domestic insurrections amongst us, and allied himself with that tornado, the Turk, against democracy and civilization; and in every stage of these oppressions we Croatians have petitioned for redress in the most humble terms, being in each and every instance answered only by repeated injury.

A government whose fundamental principles are thus marked by acts which define barbarous tyrants are unfit for human fellowship among sister nations.

We Croatians situated in the southern part of the Dual Monarchy, together with our kindred states have for ten centuries been the bulwark of Christendom against the Turks, Avars and other tribes of Mongol origin.

Theorize, our American brother, theorize upon the vast difference that would have been to the detriment of western civilization if the Southern Slav did not for a thousand years resist the westward march of Asiatic barbarians on many a glorious battlefield, immortally inscribed in history! Almighty God, alone, may know if the Gaul, Anglo-Saxon or Latin would have advanced from darkness, and taken the world with them as they did, if it was not for the heroic Slav battling the hordes of Satan on the eastern and southern borders of Europe.

The only source of information to be had by the western world was through Teutonic channels, and it being the height of absurdity to expect compliments from one's tyrant, we therefore are not surprised at the mistaken conception of the European Slavic world in general, that is held in this glorious republic. On the other hand, we see that it is rapidly disappearing, in the face of the advance of such worldly illustrious names, as Leo Tolstoy, Copernicus, Modjeska, Pavlova, John Huss, Roger Boskowicz, Chopin, Paderewski, Gorky, Sienkiewicz, and many others that the tyrannized Slavs as a whole have furnished for the enlightenment of humanity.

We do not wish to extol the virtues of the different branches of the mighty Slavic race such as Bohemians, Poles, Russians, Slovaks, Croatians, etc., for the simple reason that they are well known among all civilized nations, for instance the American commercial world is well aware of the fact that the mechanical products of Germany and Austria-Hungary are the results of Polish and Bohemian genius and workmen, and furthermore we cannot refrain from mentioning the names of Count Pulaszki and Thaddeus Kosciuszko, the Polish heroes of the American Revolution, who fought on many an American battlefield, on one of which the Slavic blood of Count Pulaszki was spilled, after he was appointed Brigadier General by Washington, therefore, a martyr to America's liberty; also, we remain certain that through the medium of the glorious English language, Thomas Campbell's immortal tribute to Kosciuszko when he fell for the freedom of his beloved Slavic Poland, will ever remain deeply rooted in the hearts of the great English speaking world.

In vain, alas; in vain, ye gallant few!  
 From rank to rank volleyed thunder flew!  
 Oh, bloodiest picture in the book of time,  
 Sarmatia fell, unwept, without a crime;  
 Found not a generous friend, a pitying foe,  
 Strength in her arms, nor mercy in her woe!  
 Dropped from her nerveless grasp the shattered spear,  
 Closed her bright eye, and curbed her high career;  
 Hope, for a season, bade the world farewell,  
 AND FREEDOM SHRIEKED AS KOSCIUSZKO  
 FELL!

Henry Sienkiewicz, the author of "Quo Vadis", said that "America was the conscience of the world." Americans! we appeal to that conscience; to those noble hearts that feed martyred Belgium; to your seats of science whose genius freed stricken Serbia of typhus; to those

noble traditions and impulses that drove you into the realm of Mars in 1861 for over four bloody years, which resulted in the emancipation of the black race and the preservation of the Great Union under the genius of martyred Lincoln,—for sympathy—for Your Voice at the Fatal Hour, to help us secure our coveted freedom through the power of your moral material influence in world conferences and diplomacy.

The world will know in the near future many a filthy Teuton intrigue committed in Europe to the detriment of the Slavs. In higher diplomacy it is a well established fact that in every instance of Russian or Polish insurrections, revolutions, etc., the same were instigated by Germany among the Germanophiles in Russia, simply to weaken Russia's unity so as to stave off the day of reckoning for her many various crimes upon Slavdom in general. Civilization is well aware of German "Kultur", having had such glittering examples in Belgium, the "Lusitania", "Arabic", Rheims, the American industries etc.

President Wilson, in his preparedness speech in New York City, was understood to mean that we must prepare because in the future we must assist governments whose fundamental principles are similar to ours, because he finds it is our sacred duty, for the advance and progress of mankind, to mobilize in the future international crises all democracies and incorporate same into one body to resist mediaeval like monarchies and corrupt emperors who "rule by Divine right" etc. etc. etc. Mr. President! We, the victims and exiles of and from Austro-Hungaro-German tyranny, and receivers of Your country's benevolence, thank You for those words in the name of our millions of victims in Europe, who deprived of the sacred right of free press or speech are seemingly mute in the face of present monstrosities.

The Central Empires, in their official war reports, state that the Croatians or Dalmatians and other Slavs are enthusiastic victors in combats with their brother Slavs, such as Russians, Serbians, etc., thereby trying to sow the seed of discord even among the Slavs throughout the world, by trying to fasten their bloody claws on the conscience of their numerous victims.

Therefore, be it known that on the tercentenary of the death of Shakespeare, the great poet philosopher and immortal lover of human liberty, we wish to express our thanks and appreciation to the American people for liberties extended us and sincerely desire to remind them of their ancestors of the Revolutionary War, the immortal heroes of 1776, whenever they enter a discussion of the Slavs in general, thereby extending us what is rightfully ours,—the sympathies of a great democracy, towards a downtrodden nation that desires a share of the glow off that mighty beacon—LIBERTY.

The Croatian Section of the Southern Slavs  
 of Oakland, Cal.  
 United States of America.

Issued under the auspices of the  
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## Music given a New Interpretation in Poland

In Poland everything is utilized to help the war-stricken. Musicians, artists, are using their talents to help solve the general distress. One of the most active among them is JANINA KOROLEWICZ.

A propos of this operatic star Anthony Czarnecki has this to say in the CHICAGO DAILY NEWS:

Idolized by wounded soldiers in hospitals and worshiped by homeless children in the sheltered places of Lemberg, Mme. Janina Korolewicz, the grand opera star who appeared in this country shortly before the war, is to-day one of the heroines of devastated and suffering Poland.

The tragic parts of famous operas which have been the life work and success of Mme. Korolewicz pale into insignificance when compared with the part she has played and is playing in her native land during the present world war. When the war is over few persons will be able to tell of experiences paralleling hers and few have done more effective work in the cause of alleviating the suffering of the wounded soldiers and the providing of shelters for homeless children who have been picked up on the fields in the wake of struggling armies.

Dressed in a simple black dress which reminds one of a convent, and wearing none of the jewelry which she owned while touring in grand opera, accompanied by a Red Cross nurse, Mme. Korolewicz is a familiar figure daily visiting the numerous hospitals of Lemberg and personally attending and supervising the temporary sheltering homes for homeless children. Her whole heart and her art are now devoted to one main purpose, and that is, according to the statement she made to me, the founding of permanent homes in Lemberg and in other large cities of Poland for homeless children, whose parents have been killed, imprisoned or disappeared during the present war.

Her own mother, unable to bear the strain and horrors of the war waged around her, died only a couple of months ago, after a serious illness. Her husband for the present is engaged in Cracow at work connected with the chief national Polish committee and has just been notified to report for duty in the ranks at the trenches by the Austro-Hungarian army command. From morning until late at night Mme. Korolewicz is bu-

sy taking part in or leading the various relief and aid activities of Lemberg and the territory around it, only a few hours' ride from the battle front and which has undergone an extensive devastation.

## Mr. A. Czarnecki in the Chicago Daily News

Mr. A. Czarnecki is reporting the following from Lublin, Russian Poland: —

"Major Gen. Eric von Diller, the military governor in charge of that part of Russian Poland which is held under Austro-Hungarian military control, is quiet and unassuming, a man of means, who, although well trained in the art of war, has devoted much of his life to administrative affairs. He holds the respect and good will and has won the praise of rich and poor, lowly and powerful in war ridden Poland.

"The praise of his good heart and judgment of his zeal in aiding the people and his disinterestedness and usefulness was so general, not only in Cracow, but everywhere on my journey through Poland, that I decided to see the man himself.

"This proved to be not difficult, and when I entered the governor's office I found him more frank and democratic than some dignified American pay roll patriots in places of small importance. He spoke correct English and was conversant with American affairs and conditions to a surprising degree.

"I am busy getting ready to be a real farmer upon a large scale in the territory from which the Russians have departed and which our government now rules", said Gen. Diller in answer to a question, and he pointed to maps, plats and statistics before him.

"I commented that I hardly expected to find farming a military or a general occupation in Europe in these days.

"The battle for bread and the proper control of the occupied territory are fully as vital in this war as the actual fighting", he replied.

"Asked about the people and the problems before him, Gen. Diller said:

"The people are good and industrious, religious and of strong moral and physical fiber. The fact that their homes have been in the very pit

of the present world war has made their lot a hard one and they have been bearing it like martyrs of old. We are all trying to do the best we can here in alleviating the misery and suffering. All the officials, the various citizens' committees and the churches have been splendidly co-operating and working in unison. Polish speaking officials who understand the Polish people and who are of them have been placed broadcast in this country by the Austro-Hungarian government, and that has helped in handling the situation."

"I feel for these people and sympathize with them, and surely I would do nothing, to make their lot any harder than war itself makes it."

"In answer to my inquiry as to what, if anything, America could do to better the horrible conditions in Poland, the general quietly replied:

"Stop selling ammunition to be used against us, and really do something for humanity, for little children and women, in the way of helping the relief committees and agencies at work to help these poor people. There is a good deal which the people of the United States can do and you know that you Americans always say, 'Where there is a will there is a way.'"

"Gen. Diller's wife, a motherly woman, who lives in Cracow, occasionally visits Lublin. She is proud of her husband.

"He is working because he loves to do good," she says, "he always has."

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## Pole Helping Pole

European Poles in more favorable circumstances are helping those that find themselves in dire distress. The political differences, brought about by the triple partition, are forgotten and the people are united in the face of the present national tragedy.

Anthony Czarnecki, of the CHICAGO DAILY NEWS, writes in this connection as follows:

It is from the widow's mite and great sacrifices of their own countrymen that the people of the war devastated and ravaged territory of Poland now under German and Austro-Hungarian army rule have up to the present time received the great bulk of the aid and relief which is prolonging lives and enabling them to continue their struggle against starvation, disease and misery.

Grateful, anxious and in need of whatever outside help comes to them, the people of the devastated territory are trying to rise from wreck and ruin principally by their own resources and by the help of their own countrymen in those parts of Poland which have felt less heavily the mailed hand of war than the sections ruined by battles.

Some help has been received from all parts of the world, including the United States, through the central relief committee for Poland headed in Switzerland by Henry Sienkiewicz, the author. Some help has come from the special collection which Pope Benedict XV caused to be made in every Roman catholic church in the world. A little has come from the governments controlling the territory. But up to the present all these constitute only a small portion of the help received by the sufferers from their own countrymen in Poland, whose lot is only a little better than their own.

But with the blockade becoming more effective, with the rigorous precautions taken by the occupying government to keep alive those in their own fatherlands, and with the resources on all sides in Poland becoming gradually exhausted the need of outside help to save the nation from death is being admitted in this stricken land.

In taking up and carrying on the work of relief the people in all parts of what was once Poland present a picture of national unity and solidarity which is a surprise to the officials of these governments, which for more than 120 years have been claiming them as merged within their own nations.

In view of the fact that the greatest need and devastation has affected that portion of old Poland which, since the partition by Germany, Russia and Austria has been under the Russian rule, the Polish people from the parts ruled by Germany and Austria have come forward with systematic and unsparing aid which has not only done much to relieve the needy but has shown the people of these three sections as remaining a united nation in the face of the persecution in various different forms which they suffered in the past.

Some parts of Poland which have been under Austrian rule, and for a time in the present struggle were seized and held by the Russian forces and again retaken by the Austrians, are also wrecked and ruined and the people are in great distress. These also receive the bulk of their aid from the same sources and in the same manner as in the territory previously occupied by Russian and now by German and Austrian forces.

That part of Poland which was under Austrian rule, and known as Galicia, has always been looked upon as one of the impoverished sections of

Austria. From this section many people have emigrated recently because of the economic conditions. Yet in the present national crisis the poor people of this section have responded in such a generous way to the cry of distress of their needy brethren that they have surprised even officials of the government which has been ruling them since their country's partition. They have given money totaling millions of dollars.

From the province of Posen, from Silesia and from other parts of Poland where the Prussian government has been conducting a Prussianizing campaign, and where the cities, towns and villages contain no Polish signs, but are all labeled in German, came a hearty and systematic action that has contradicted the claims of the Prussian Colonization society leaders that the people in these places have long ceased to be Poles.

From those parts where the devastation is greatest came wealthy men giving up everything they have and sacrificing their time and work in order to help feed the hungry mouths of women and children in order to prevent the extermination of the Polish nation.

## LIBERTY FOR POLAND



Guziczki, czyli odznaki z powyższym napisem i artystycznie wykonanym wizerunkiem orła polskiego w pośrodku, są do nabycia w biurze Sekretaryatu Polskiego Centralnego Komitetu Ratunkowego w Ameryce po następujących cenach:

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Guziczki emaliowane i złote są trojakiemu rodzaju, a mianowicie: męskie wkręcane w dziurkę od kłapy surduta; męskie w formie szpilki do krawatu; żeńskie z agrafkami do przypinania. Wielkość guziczków i rysunek widoczne są na zamieszczonej obok podobiznie.

Zarobku prywatnego przy sprzedaży niema żadnego, bo to służba dla Ojczyzny, na rzecz której całkowity dochód z tej sprzedaży jest przeznaczony.

Na kredyt guziczków w zasadzie nie wydaje się. Kto pragnie przysłużyć się dobrej sprawie, niechaj nie omieszka zakupić odpowiednią ilość tych guziczków i rozsprzedać je wśród przyjaciół i znajomych. Guziczki te stanowią jedną z najpiękniejszych pamiątek z czasów starań wychodźstwa polskiego w Ameryce o ratunek i wolność dla Ojczyzny.

Nie zwlekajcie zatem Rodacy z zamówieniami, które nadsyłać należy na ręce sekretarza Polskiego Komitetu Ratunkowego pod adresem:

**Henryk Setmajer,**

1309 N. Ashland ave.

CHICAGO, ILL.

# The Hospital in Warsaw

Hernando de Soto, the American consul in Warsaw, asked The Daily News to suggest to John F. Smulski, the Chicago banker, that he through the American state department, cause the remainder of the money in the consul's hands belonging to the Warsaw Polish-American hospital to be turned over to the archbishop of Warsaw for use in buying food for starving children in this city. The hospital has gone out of existence. Mr. De Soto has 2,000 rubles (\$1,000) which could be used for the benefit of the suffering children of Warsaw if the state department and Mr. Smulski would authorize him to make that use of the funds.

When Mr. A. Czarnecki asked the archbishop of Warsaw in regard to the matter he said he would take charge of the money and use it for needy children if the American consul turned it over to him.

Mr. John F. Smulski brought the matter before the Polish Central Relief Committee which has ordered the money turned over to the Archbishop of Warsaw to be used for Polish needy children.

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